

The Sixty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists

This year, our association travels to Columbus, Ohio for its sixty-eighth annual meeting. It has proven to be quite the attraction, as we have a record number of papers scheduled for presentation (approximately 570) in 36 sessions. Nine of those sessions are symposia presenting research from a wide variety of areas in physical anthropology, including human biology in the archives, population origins and evolution in the New World, contact dynamics in the northeastern U.S., behavioral ecology and conservation of primates in Nicaragua, revisions of the genus *Gorilla*, health and disease in infancy, human biology among tropical populations of Latin America, anthropological diversity and complex disease, and infant feeding and nutrition in prehistory. In addition to the AAPA activities, the meeting site is hosting events of a number of other groups during the week, including the Human Biology Association, Paleopathology Association, Paleoanthropology Society, American Dermatoglyphics Association, Dental Anthropology Association, Primate Biology and Behavior Interest Group, and American Association of Anthropological Genetics.

As always, we are thrilled to see the number of colleagues from overseas scheduled to participate. Moreover, student participation continues to increase, with over 50 papers scheduled to be entered in the student paper prize competition. I am pleased to note that we will be expanding upon a tradition begun last year, with the winners of this year's student paper prizes being announced at an awards reception on Saturday night. Please set aside time for it, as it should be a chance not only to recognize the outstanding efforts of our students, but also to close-out the meetings on a festive note!

In the pages of this Annual Meeting Issue of the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, we present a detailed program grid for the week, a map showing the meeting

rooms of the Hyatt Regency Columbus, a day-by-day summary of events for AAPA (and other organizations, editorial boards, workshops, & business meetings), author index (by *session number*), and the abstracts of AAPA poster and podium presentations.

Formal activities for some of the groups meeting prior to the AAPA commence on Monday evening, April 26th. AAPA activities begin with the Career Development Committee's Workshop on "Professional Career Strategies and Opportunities," followed by the annual opening reception on Wednesday evening, April 28th. AAPA poster and podium presentations begin Thursday, April 29th, and continue through Saturday afternoon, May 1st. As usual, two annual events will provide stimulating contributions to the meetings. The plenary lecture will be given on Thursday evening by Dr. David Barker, Director of the MRC Environmental Epidemiology Unit at Southampton General Hospital. The focus of his talk will be on potential associations between *in utero* development and chronic degenerative diseases later in life—undoubtedly a subject of great interest to many members. The annual luncheon address will be delivered on Friday afternoon by Dr. Bennett Bertenthal, Assistant Director of Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation. It will be an exciting chance to hear about changes in funding priorities and possibilities in Anthropology at NSF. As always, we encourage the membership to attend the annual business meeting, to be held on Friday evening, April 30th.

The AAPA Scientific Program, Local Arrangements, and Executive Committees look forward to your participation in the annual meeting in Columbus, surely to be one of our best gatherings ever.

Mark F. Teafor
AAPA Vice President and Program Chair